

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, October 24, 2013

The meeting was held at Town Hall and called to order by Acting Chairperson Richard Lepore at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Richard Lepore, Bill Leonard, Tom Mull and John Rascius. Also present were Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster, and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – September 26, 2013.

Bill Leonard moved to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Mull and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – September 2013.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by board members. Board members discussed the success of the Keane Family Picnic on the Broad Street Green in September and the Coveside Carnival in October sponsored by the Keane Foundation. Both events had great weather and good crowds were in attendance.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Children's Halloween Party – October 27 at Community Center. Flyer distributed at meeting.
2. Nature Center Tricky Trolls Haunted House – October 25-27. Flyer distributed at meeting.

E. Old Business.

1. Loretta's Dream Picnic Pavilion.

Ms. Bagley reported that the construction work and landscaping has finished. Mr. Rascius commented that the pavilion is a beautiful building. Staff will work on developing a process for groups to rent the facility. Staff will discuss the rental process with members of the Loretta's Dream Foundation.

2. Emerson Williams Playscape.

The playscape installation is completed, with just a few remaining punch list items. The playscape has opened and it is very popular with children at the school and in town.

F. New Business.

1. Webb Tennis Courts.

These courts were funded for replacement in the Capital Improvement budget for this year. The town's Engineering Department is working on the design for the courts. The project will be bid in the winter with construction in the spring. Mr. Leonard asked what type of surface would be used on the new courts. Ms. Bagley explained they will be amesite courts with the appropriate tennis court surface applied on top of the amesite.

2. Use of School Facilities During High School Renovation.

Acting chairperson, Rich Lepore asked Ms. Bagley for an update on the use of school facilities during the high school renovation. Ms. Bagley explained that she and her staff have had meetings with school personnel including the superintendent, high school principal, athletic director and school maintenance supervisor to discuss the needs of the Parks and Recreation Department and determine facilities available for our use. These meetings have been very helpful in planning out the activities of the department. The high school pool is available for recreational swim, swim lessons and our swim team practices during construction. All users now access the pool through the high school

main entrance. Staff are planning ahead with school personnel to minimize disruptions to our programs and the youth sport programs in town. Everyone will need to cooperate and recognize that some programs may get limited time or need to be rescheduled based on facility availability during the renovation process. These meetings provide a good forum to look ahead at the construction timetable and determine what facilities will be available for use. Mr. Rascius noted that the new driveway loops built at the high school as part of the renovation process are working out well.

3. Field Improvements to Lighted Little League Field and Fusco Field (Lighted Softball Field).

Acting Chairperson Rich Lepore noted that town maintenance staff are working on field improvements to some of the town fields. Ms. Bagley reported that the infield at Fusco field has been completely renovated. The new infield has been constructed with the appropriate grades to provide better drainage for the field and new turf has been installed between the infield and outfield. Mr. Mull commented that these improvements were needed and they look very good on the field. Ms. Bagley discussed the improvements to the lighted Little League field. The town hired a contractor to provide deep aeration at this field in the fall. This work follows the plan recommended by Dr. Dest for this field. This deep aeration will allow the grass roots to grow and provide good drainage for the soil.

G. Board Member Comments.

None.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbormaster Report.

Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick distributed his monthly report and reviewed it with members. He reported that the moorings are set for the winter and town staff will be pulling the docks from the water next week. He explained that he had three jet skis speeding in the Cove and they were not listening to him regarding the speed limit, etc. He pointed out that if he had a means of enforcing the boating rules and issuing citations he could control this situation better. He is continuing to work on boating rules.

2. Boating Infrastructure Grant.

Ms. Bagley reported that she is working with the Town Manager on the contract for the grant. The state and federal government staff have made a determination that a large portion of the town's in kind services local match is not eligible for the grant. The town is reviewing their determination and a conference call is being scheduled with the staff from the state and federal government.

3. Dredging Cove Channel.

Mr. Forsdick reported that the Army Corp is moving forward with the dredging of the channel. Their proposed timeline for this construction work is between December and March. They have sent a document to the Town Manager for his signature to use a small part of the parking lot for their construction equipment. This area will be fenced. The Town Manager signed the document.

4. Harbormaster Boat.

Mr. Forsdick provided an overview on the condition of the existing boat. He recommended the town get an estimate on repair. He is concerned that the cost for the repair of the bottom of the boat and the canopy may not be worth it because of the age of the boat. It may be more cost effective to look for a new used boat to replace the current one. Town staff will get the boat to a vendor for an estimate.

5. Resignation of Deputy Harbormaster.

Mr. Forsdick reported that Deputy Harbormaster, Charles Viani has resigned for personal reasons. A new deputy harbormaster will need to be recruited. Mr. Forsdick distributed a list of qualifications for the Commission to review. One suggestion was made to the qualifications list. Each sentence started with the word “must” and this word was deleted from the qualification descriptions. Otherwise commission members thought the list presented by Mr. Forsdick summed up the qualifications for this position. The appointment process involves the Harbor Management Commission making recommendations to the Town Manager and then the Town Manager can send recommendations to the Governor.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Tom Mull and seconded by John Rascius to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department